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FOREIGN OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Washington 25, D.C.

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September 2, 1953

MEMORANDUM TO: The Psychological Strategy Board

FROM: Director, Foreign Operations Administration

SUBJECT: Surplus Food Distribution

On the basis of the information accumulated during my conferences with the European Mission Chiefs this last week, I am convinced we should give serious consideration to a mid-December distribution of certain United States surplus foods in some of the areas with the largest numbers of unemployed in Western Europe.

The review indicated that as a whole, the best attitude of the people toward the United States is in those areas where there was a more direct sense of participation by the people in the results of United States aid.

We now have a Congressional requirement to dispose of certain surplus foods in a manner that is above the normal import of such foods. There is an awareness throughout Europe that we have these surplus foods. The communities with large numbers of unemployed do have need of additional food. Obviously, the United States should not get in the position of a regular continuing free distribution of food in Western Europe of large magnitude.

Placing all these factors together, I am inclined to believe that a special food package distributed about mid-December and, therefore, available for the Christmas season, is the best way to try out the operation in certain areas without being involved in a continuing program.

If the Psychological Strategy Board is agreeable, the Foreign Operations Administration, in consultation with Agriculture and the other Departments of PSB, will work up a specific proposal and a specific plan for decision by PSB at a later date.

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